

3782 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1967

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,
Hobart, Ind., June 10, 1967.

Hon. CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PERKINS: The Hobart League of Women Voters feels that it would be a serious mistake to deny the necessary funds for the OEO programs, or to place some of them under federal jurisdiction.

We urge you to support the present OEO program and to do your utmost to prevent any crippling changes which jeopardize the present program.

Thank you for your kind cooperation,
Sincerely,

ANN J. WORKMAN,
President.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WALLINGFORD,
Wallingford, Conn., June 9, 1967.

Representative CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PERKINS: For the sixty families represented in the League of Women Voters in Wallingford, I would like to express our continued support for the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967. Programs which would be affected are now functioning in Connecticut, and we are hoping that you will be able to help expedite the new legislation in your Committee.

We feel that the Office of Economic Opportunity has in a short time established a laudable record, taking initiative in a whole series of innovative programs that satisfy our criteria for efforts to provide equality of employment opportunity and education for everyone. We feel there is real value in having a single federal agency responsive to the needs of the poor and that the coordinating roles of the Community Action Program should be strengthened, not weakened, as by transference to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

As you know, the Leagues know well their obligation to call for adequate financing of programs we support, and we feel that the \$2.06 billion authorization requested for fiscal 1968 is hardly a revolutionary sum, considering the scale of the problems to be faced and the progress of many communities from planning to operating phases of these programs.

We hope and respectfully request that you consider our support of these programs in the deliberations of your committee and in casting your votes.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. J. LAWRENCE POND,
President.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW MEXICO,
Las Vegas, N. Mex., June 8, 1967.

Hon. CARL PERKINS,
Chairman, House Committee on Education and Labor,
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE PERKINS: I am writing on behalf of Mrs. Luther Lyon, President of the League of Women Voters of New Mexico, and myself concerning the Economic Opportunity Amendments of 1967, H.R. 8311. The League has actively studied the Economic Opportunity Act and strongly supports this effort.

The League is opposed to abolishing the Office of Economic Opportunity. There is value in having a single federal agency responsive to the needs of the poor and responsible for the difficult job of originating, coordinating, and evaluating programs related to these needs. Moreover, it is important at this point to work to strengthen rather than weaken the initiating and coordinating roles of the Community Action Program on the national and local levels. This is not to say that the League members believe current OEO programs to be perfect. But this is the time for continued and sophisticated evaluation of results rather than drastic changes and cutbacks.